

IOWA BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

PRESS RELEASE

For release, February 26, 2002

Recently, the Iowa Board of Medical Examiners took the following action:

Acenas Asturias-Zarate, M.D., a 52 year-old obstetrician and gynecologist from Des Moines, Iowa, was charged by the Board with the inability to practice medicine and surgery with reasonable skill and safety by reason of a mental condition, which is the result of a serious brain injury; knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine; and engaging in practice harmful or detrimental to the public. The Board filed an Emergency Adjudicative Order immediately suspending Dr. Asturias-Zarate's Iowa medical license finding that her continued practice of medicine constitutes an immediate danger to the public health, safety, and welfare. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for March 13, 2002.

Jess M. Zarate, M.D., a 54 year-old physician from Des Moines, Iowa, was charged by the Board with knowingly aiding, assisting, procuring, or advising a person to unlawfully practice medicine; knowingly making misleading, deceptive, untrue or fraudulent representations in the practice of medicine; being guilty of a willful or repeated violation of a lawful rule of the Board; and engaging in practice harmful or detrimental to the public. On May 3, 2001, Dr. Zarate was charged with billing code irregularities. On October 18, 2001, Dr. Zarate's Iowa medical license was suspended for 30 days and placed on probation for a period of five (5) years under certain terms and conditions. Dr. Zarate was issued a Citation and Warning, ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine, and ordered to successfully complete courses on appropriate billing practices and professional ethics. A hearing in this matter is scheduled for April 4, 2002.